

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-9 and 12-31 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 10, and 11 are amended. Claims 1, 10, and 11 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 1 and 7-11 were objected to for informalities. The objection of claims 7 and 8 is moot because those claims are canceled. Claim 1 is amended to address the informalities; claims 10 and 11 depending from claim 1 are thus also believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. In particular, the Action finds that "The electronic apparatus" cited in each of those claims lacking antecedent basis. In response, those claims are amended and do not recite "The electronic apparatus" as amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejection are thus respectfully request.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka (U.S. Applicant Publication No. 2003/0012999) in view of Haluzak (U.S. Patent No. 7018734), Bronoel (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0006745) and Nishida (U.S. Patent No. 5686179); claim 11 stands rejected as claim 1, and further in view of Bostaph (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0031908). For the reasons

discussed below, applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of amended independent claims 1, and submits that the rejections should be withdrawn.

The amended independent claim 1 is as follows:

A fuel cell casing comprising:

a base body made of multi-layer ceramics that has a plurality of concavities formed on one surface thereof, each of the cavities accommodating therein a membrane electrode assembly, the membrane electrode assemblies each having, on one principal surface and another principal surface thereof, a first electrode and a second electrode respectively;

first fluid channels each formed so as to extend from a bottom surface of each of the concavities facing one principal surface of the membrane electrode assembly to an outer surface of the base body;

first wiring conductors each having its one end disposed on the bottom surface of each of the concavities facing the first electrode of the membrane electrode assembly, and its another end led to the outer surface of the base body;

a lid body mounted on one surface of the base body near the concavities so as to cover the concavities, for sealing the concavities hermetically;

second fluid channels each formed so as to extend from one surface of the lid body facing the other principal surface of the membrane electrode assembly to an outer surface of the lid body;

second wiring conductors each having its one end disposed on one surface of the lid body facing the second electrode of the membrane electrode assembly, and its another end led to the outer surface of the lid body; and

a third wiring conductor formed in the base body, the third wiring conductor having its one end opposed to the first electrode of the membrane electrode assembly on the bottom surface of one of the concavities, and its another end opposed to the first electrode of the membrane electrode assembly on the bottom surface of another of the concavities, wherein an internal circuit including at least one of resistor, capacitor, or inductor element is formed in the base body.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest “a base body made of multi-layer ceramics... wherein an internal circuit including at least one of resistor, conductor, or inductor is formed in the base body” as recited in amended

independent claim 1 (*see Applicant's specification at page 138, line 22 to page 139 line 13; page 140, line 20 to page 141, line 16; page 174, line 22 to page 175, line 13; and page 176, line 20 to page 177, line 16*). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied references.

The Action recognizes that Yoshioka, Haluzak, and Nishida do not teach the feature of having an internal circuit formed in the base body; the Action asserts Bronoel as teaching that feature.

Bronoel, however, does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1 as amended. Bronoel is directed to a bipolar collector for a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell including distributed metal cylinders (*Bronoel Abstract; element C in figures*). The Action states that Bronoel's metal cylinders is an internal circuit in the base body, with respect to the "internal circuit" of claim 1. According to Bronoel, the metal cylinders reduces collector resistance (*Bronoel Abstract reciting "Said type of collector is characteri[z]ed in that the [O]hmic drop is very low, even for current density levels of the order of 1 A/cm²."*). Bronoel thus teaches away from forming circuit having resistors in the base body. Moreover, Bronoel does not disclose or suggest forming circuits having capacitor and inductor in the base body.

In contrast, the claims of present applicant recite a base body made of multi-layer ceramics, and an internal circuit including resistors, capacitors, or inductors formed in the base body (*see Applicant's specification at page 138, line 22 to page 139 line 13; page 140, line 20 to page 141, line 16; page 174, line 22 to page 175, line 13; and page 176, line 20 to page 177, line 16*). By forming an internal circuit in the base body, the claimed invention has the advantage of mounting an electronic part electrically connected to the internal circuit on the surface of the base body **76, 76a**. Such integration allows for increasing functionalities of the electronic part mounted on the surface of the base body **76, 76a** (*Applicant's specification at page 141*). The advantages flowing from the claimed features are not seen in the applied references.

Accordingly, Bronoel does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1 as amended. The Action recognizes that Yoshioka, Haluzak, and Nishida fail to disclose even the internal circuit in base body, let alone forming internal circuits having resistor, capacitor, or inductor as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable by the applied references, individually or in combination. Amended independent claim 1 is thus patentable over the applied references, and such allowance is respectfully request.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from independent claim 1, and are thus allowable at least for the same reasons as those the base claim. Allowance of those claims is also respectively requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2007

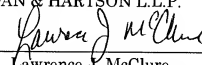
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 9, 2008

By: _____


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